



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

SNAPSHOT

Girls Just Want to Have Computers

English and computer skills prepare young women for career opportunities



USAID/ASGP/Hirat Staff

The only English and computer training center for women and girls in Kunduz City had to expand the number of classes to accommodate growing local demand.

USAID is strengthening the capacity of women-focused civil-society organizations to contribute to the social, economic, and political development of women throughout Afghanistan.

Kunduz is a relatively large city located in northern Afghanistan. Several English and computer training centers exist within the region, but in most families women are not allowed to attend classes with men. These constraints restrict female access to the training facilities.

With support from USAID, the Kunduz Women's Supportive Union decided to establish the first English and computer training center in Kunduz City exclusively for women and girls. USAID funded the purchase of eight desktop computers and furniture as well as fees for trainers.

The organization planned to train 20 women and girls, but the number of participants has grown to 55, based on local demand. The classes were organized in three shifts to accommodate all participants.

"We may have to add another shift as the number of students grows every day," says Samia, the director of the Kunduz Women's Supportive Union. Samia, who is in her early 20s, has worked with an international organization in the past. "There is a shortage of qualified women in non-governmental organizations and governmental institutions," she said. "English and computer skills can help women in their career prospects."

The Kunduz Women's Supportive Union will introduce a small participant fee to cover the training center's running costs after the completion of the USAID grant. The union has developed its organizational capacity with USAID support, and intends to implement similar activities in other parts of Kunduz Province.